

December 16th Louisiana Severe Weather Event



Tornado damage in Alexandria, Louisiana., following the Dec. 16th storms.

On the morning of December 16th numerous severe storms associated with a cold front, began to impact areas in northwest Louisiana and as the day progressed expanded to many other areas of the state. Multiple parishes were impacted with high winds and possible tornadic activity, causing damages to structures, downing tree and power lines and reportedly causing at least 1 fatality. Areas in Rapides, Beauregard, Vernon and Webster parishes were particularly hard hit. The National Weather Service (NWS) is still in the process of conducting their tornado surveys. So far, the NWS confirmed Webster parish and Wash-

ington/Tangipahoa Parishes experienced tornados with possible tornadoes in Rapides, Beauregard, and Vernon Parishes. GOHSEP's Crisis Action Team (CAT) was activated during and after the storms passed in order to provide support to our parish partner's response and recovery efforts.

For more storm related information visit:



www.facebook.com/gohsep



www.weather.gov

From The Director



Hello Everyone,

I hope you and your families are enjoying a great holiday season. We have continued to reach major milestones in recovery and mitigation for 2019. These projects and goals will benefit everyone in the state. We have also stepped up efforts in response and recovery for the latest cybersecurity attacks in Louisiana. That somewhat new area of concern means we will be leading new training and coordination efforts for our local, state and federal partners as we go into 2020. As with many fields under GOHSEP's umbrella, cybersecurity issues have evolved over the years and we are now one of the most proactive states addressing these attacks. As technology continues to grow, the work to protect our systems and networks will also continue to grow.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our leadership workshop at JESTC. It was a great chance for those involved to learn more about the entire scope of GOHSEP's activity. We received wonderful feedback that will make GOHSEP stronger in the future. Also, thanks to everyone who coordinated and participated in our recent holiday events. It's great to take a few moments and have fellowship with your co-workers as we prepare for any challenges in the new year.

- James Waskom


GOHSEP's Public Link For Damage Assessment Use In Severe Wx 19-035 On 12/16/2019

Damage created by natural disasters can have a major impact on the lives of individual homeowners. It is essential to the state and parish response efforts to obtain real time data on existing needs of a local community. Tornadoes from the recent severe weather incident created widespread damage and debris in the parishes of Webster, Beauregard, Vernon and Rapides. GOHSEP's is offering an innovative public link that provides a means for the affected citizenry to report their storm related damages. The information provided will aid in determining what next steps are needed in the recovery process. In the future, a link will be created by incident to encourage faster collection of damage assessment data

The link to access the current severe weather event survey is survey123.arcgis.com/share/2b07ce688ad44750b5ad59e4636892a0?field:incident_id=19-035.

For more information you may contact Rubby Douglas at rubby.douglas2@la.gov.

State of Louisiana Disaster Damage Self Report



Please fill out this survey to report damage to your home or business (structures only, no vehicles). Information collected here will help parish, state, and federal authorities understand how and where locations were impacted by this disaster event. This survey is to be used only for reporting damage or loss of personal property. Completion of this survey is not an application for or guarantee of assistance, nor does it initiate a claim to your insurance provider. Contact information will be used to provide information on resources available as well as how to apply for any assistance that may be available. Utility outages should still be reported to your local utility provider.

If this is a life threatening emergency, dial 911.

Name*

Phone Number*

National Tax Security Press Conference Held At GOHSEP



Director Mike Dupree with the Louisiana AG's Public Protection Division, speaks during the press conference.

On December 4th GOHSEP hosted the National Tax Security Press Conference. The focus of the event was "How to Avoid Identity Theft and Tax Scams". The conference included representatives from the Louisiana Attorney General's Public Protection Division, the Louisiana Department of Revenue, the IRS Communications and Liaison office, the IRS Criminal Investigation office and the Society of Louisiana CPAs.

New OHSEP Director Named For Washington Parish



Washington Parish recently named Bobbi Jo Breland as Director of the Washington Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Bobbi Jo Breland

985-839-0434

@ bjbreland@wpgov.org

www.washingtonparishalerts.org/homeland-security---emergency-preparedness.html



Governor's Mansion Holidays Open House



GOHSEP's Erica Thigpen, Aviance Mars and Honey Morris with First Lady Donna Edwards at the Governor's Mansion.

The Governor and First Lady Donna Edwards recently held a Holiday Open House and tour of the holiday decorations at the Governor's Mansion for state employees. This year's theme was "All things Louisiana, from crawfish to cypress to fleur-de-lis".



governorsmansion.org



Building A Culture of Preparedness

Baton Rouge - The Community Preparedness Branch is engaging people and communities to not just be ready but prepared for recovery if needed. Tramaine Childs and Camila Medina (GOHSEP Preparedness Section) connected with the Gardere Initiative in Baton Rouge to work with young people to help them not only look at preparedness kits for themselves and their families, but also empowering them to action in support neighbors and their communities. The Gardere Initiative's mission is to address substance abuse and other social ills in the Gardere area that adversely affect the children, neighboring subdivisions and the City in general through spiritual interventions, collections and partnership.

For more information, please contact:

Tramaine Childs tramaine.childs@la.gov

Maria Medina maria.medina@la.gov



GOHSEP's Tramaine Childs and Camila Medina with the Gardere Initiative kids.

Helping Others During The Holiday Season

GOHSEP's Preparedness section incorporated its mission into the GOHSEP Christmas festivities by collecting goods for the Baton Rouge Food Bank. This effort reminds us to give and work together to help support individuals and families who may struggle to strengthen resiliency. Donations were given to Mike Manning, Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.

For more information you may contact Rubby Douglas at rubby.douglas2@la.gov.



The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank feeds the hungry in Baton Rouge and the surrounding parishes by providing food and educational outreach through faith-based and other community partners. Through their client network and outreach programs, they are able to distribute donated food to over 115 member agencies in a 11 parish service area, completely free of charge.

To donate or to learn more, visit brfoodbank.org/contact-us or call (225) 359-9940



Building Synergy in Disaster Recovery

Austin, TX. - This recent conference focused on information sharing and communication between agencies and organizations involved in disaster recovery, in order to execute programs more efficiently and effectively while delivering the greatest benefits to the people we service. These networking opportunities increased exploration of fund development, creative mitigation projects, and innovative ideas in aligning volunteers and long-term recovery groups to maximize the recovery for individuals and communities.

GOHSEP is proud to be part of these networks which assist us in our continuing search for excellence. GOHSEP's work with FEMA has provided an enhanced intergovernmental coordinated effort by the co-locating of a FEMA Integration Team (FIT) with Louisiana. These teams:

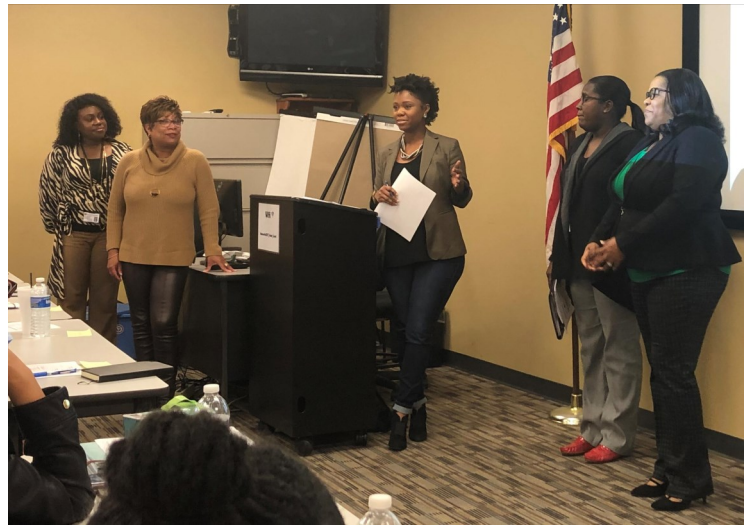
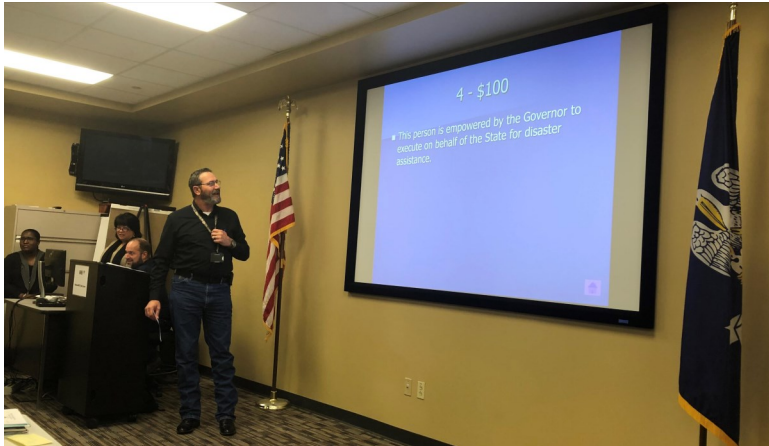
- Provide continuous and more coordinated FEMA presence and bolster connections, cooperation and communication necessary to enhance the Nation's overall shared readiness;
- Increase the speed and quality of targeted technical assistance to build capacity and address gaps, barriers in a more personal manner;
- Provide customers with increased access to and direct engagement by FEMA personnel and the technical assistance they provide to strengthen a collective understanding of its partners' capabilities, needs, and gaps
- Enhance the customer experience, build more resilient communities and ensure more effective response and recovery operations before, during and after an incident.



Rubby Douglas (GOHSEP) and Angele Rogers (FEMA FIT -LA)

GOHSEP 2019 Leadership Workshop

GOHSEP held its 2019 Leadership Workshop at the Joint Emergency Services Training Center (JESTC) in Zachary, Louisiana. The 2-day event included discussions and presentations on technology, team building and improving processes and policies.



The Latest GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast is Available

Another episode of The GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast is now available!



Butch Browning

A new episode of The GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast is now available! An expert from the **Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services** will talk about foster care. We will discuss emergency planning for foster families and we will talk about the process of becoming foster parents.

Also, **State Fire Marshal Butch Browning** joins us to discuss some of the fire safety issues we need to address

during the winter holiday season. He has information you need to keep you and your family safe.

For questions or comments, please contact Mike Steele at



Find a link at GetAGamePlan.org or download and subscribe to the podcast from Spotify or any other major podcast store. or many other podcast stores.



GOHSEP Annual Door Decorating

Grand Prize Winner - Hazard Mitigation, Team #4, **Santa's Holiday Brunch**

Most Creative - Preparedness, Team #1, **Polar Express**

Best Originality - Public Assistance Grants Management, Team #10, **Christmas Around the World**

Funniest Door - Operations, Team #7, **Snow Day in Louisiana**

Fantastic Flavor - SMC, Team #9, **A Christmas Carol**



GOHSEP Annual Door Decorating



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GOHSEP Annual Door Decorating



2019 GOLD Awards Recipient

GOHSEP's Amy Dawson, recently received recognition of her dedicated service and valuable contributions as a member of the Governor's Advisory Council for Disability Affairs (GACDA). Amy's efforts to ensure and support the inclusiveness of individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, has been a great value to GOHSEP and the State. Disability Integration requires understanding of others and the providing of guidance, tools, methods and strategies to establish equal physical, program and effective communication access. Recognition of the GACDA members took place at the 2019 GOLD Awards Ceremony in December. Amy is part of GOHSEP's Preparedness Section.

The Governor's Office of Disability Affairs (GODA) serves as an informational resource for people with disabilities, their families and the agencies that serve them.

Learn more about GODA and GACDA at gov.louisiana.gov/page/disability-affairs

You may contact Amy at amy.dawson@la.gov



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

For questions or comments about the birthdays, contact: Tiffany Johnson - tiffany.l.johnson@la.gov

Tashika Alford (Hazard Mitigation Closeout)	01/03	Alicia Murray (Facility Management)	01/14
Melton Gaspard (Operations)	01/04	Jessica Steinberg (Hazard Mitigation Management)	01/14
Kaitlin Cox (Recovery Grants Administration)	01/05	Shantella Williams (Hazard Mitigation Closeout)	01/16
Brittany Morvant (Public Assistance Grants)	01/05	Joshua Combs (Hazard Mitigation SALs)	01/19
Tiffany Doucet (Hazard Mitigation SALs)	01/06	Janelle Hamilton (Hazard Mitigation Grants)	01/22
Travis Johnson (Interoperability)	01/08	Jamey Covington (Facility Management)	01/24
Kristopher Gregoire (Public Assistance Proj. Inspection)	01/11	Leah Cope Calvaruso (Public Assistance Grants)	01/31
Vickie Dennis (Public Assistance Grants)	01/14		

UPCOMING EVENTS

To sign up or for more information about the training, visit: gohsep.la.gov/resources/training-events-schedule

TRAINING

Jan 14-16, 2020	L0705 - Fundamentals of Grant Management - Metairie, Louisiana
Jan 21-22, 2020	MGT-319 - Medical Countermeasures: Point of Dispensing, Plan & Response - Covington, Louisiana
Jan 22-23, 2020	ICS 300 - Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents for Operational First Responders - Lafayette, Louisiana
Jan 28-29, 2020	MGT 343 - Disaster Management for Water & Wastewater Utilities - Chalmette, Louisiana
Feb 5-6, 2020	ICS 300 - Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents for Operational First Responders - Madisonville, Louisiana
Feb 19, 2020	ICS 400 - Advanced Incident Command System - Madisonville, Louisiana
March 3-5, 2020	Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train the Trainer Course - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
April 1-2, 2020	MGT-319 - Medical Countermeasures: Point of Dispensing, Plan & Response - Franklinton, Louisiana
May 7-8, 2020	DMP 480 - Introduction to Disaster Recovery Public Assistance - New Orleans, Louisiana
May 8, 2020	DMP 580 - Disaster Recovery for Senior Officials - New Orleans, Louisiana
July 9-10, 2020	MGT-319 - Medical Countermeasures: Point of Dispensing, Plan & Response - Metairie, Louisiana

NEW AGENCY HIRES

Tashanti Pitts Team Lead (Public Assistance Grants)	Blake Ruffino Closeout Specialist (Public Assistance Closeout)	Peter Catrambone State Applicant Liaison (Hazard Mitigation SALs)
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STATE HOLIDAYS

Declared Holiday - Dec. 31, 2019	New Year - Jan 1, 2020	MLK Holiday - Jan 20, 2020
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Request For Articles

If you would like to include an article in future issues of *The GOHSEP Focus*, please contact: Your designated Agency Representative or

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Steven Burr
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